

and the extraordinary service of all of its members. Today marks the 236th year of the Navy's existence. Since its birth in 1775, our sailors have bravely served our Nation here at home and in all corners of the globe. Whether it is protecting Americans and our allies, to keeping the seas open for commerce or assisting other nations after global disasters, the United States Navy has truly been a global force for good.

My own state of Connecticut has a proud naval tradition. We are fortunate enough to be home to the Naval Submarine Base New London, which is known as the "First and Finest Submarine Base". Originally commissioned as a navy yard on April 11th, 1868, our base now boasts 15 home ported submarines and employs over 7,500 service members and civilians. As a result, the base is one of the largest employers in southeastern Connecticut. Over the years, and with the establishment of naval schools and training facilities, the base has become a symbol of strength and pride for Connecticut, and for the entire Navy. Not only was the first diesel powered submarine commissioned in Groton, but our New London base was the first in the history of the Navy.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can all agree the Navy deserves recognition for their continued and constant service to our country. From skirmishes with the Royal Navy in 1776 to today's operations in the Middle East, the Navy has remained an organization that all Americans can be proud of. I ask my colleagues to join me, and the people of Connecticut, in applauding the current and former sailors around the world for their service in the U.S. Navy.

#### SCREEN ACT FOR 112TH CONGRESS

### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Supporting Colorectal Examination and Education Now (SCREEN) Act. This legislation will remove barriers to one of the most effective preventive health screenings available, saving lives and reducing health care costs in the process. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

The statistics surrounding colon cancer are startling. Colon cancer is the number two cancer killer in the United States for both men and women. (CDC Colorectal Cancer Vital Signs; July 2011)

Over 50,000 people will die this year from this disease according to the American Cancer Society (2010 Fact & Figures).

These deaths become more tragic when one considers that colorectal cancer is highly preventable with appropriate screening. According to the American Cancer Society (2010 Facts & Figures), the 5 year survival rate is 90% for those diagnosed at an early stage; however, less than 40% of the cases are diagnosed at that stage.

During colorectal cancer screening by colonoscopy, pre-cancerous polyps are removed during the same encounter, thus preventing cancer from developing, as opposed to other cancer screenings where early detection is the goal. That is one reason why the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force provides an "A" rating for CRC screenings.

The CDC "colorectal cancer control program" screening target rate is 80%. The American Cancer Society and other patient advocacy groups have a target rate of 75%. Unfortunately, only half of the Medicare population is being screened, despite the availability of a Medicare colon cancer screening benefit. According to CMS and American Cancer Society (March 2011), Medicare claims indicate that only 52–58% of beneficiaries have had any colorectal cancer test and there is "clearly an opportunity to improve colorectal cancer screening rates in the Medicare population."

The latest findings by the American Cancer Society confirm that screening rates among the Medicare population continue to be in this 50th percentile range, with screening rates among minority populations that are especially low among Medicare-aged beneficiaries.

The CDC concludes that 1,000 additional colorectal cancer deaths will be prevented each year if screening rates reached 70.5%. (CDC Colorectal Cancer Vital Signs; July 2011).

In addition to saving lives, colorectal cancer screening has been demonstrated to save Medicare long-term costs as noted by the New England Journal of Medicine in a recent article (Feb. 2008).

The direct costs of treating colorectal cancer in 2010 reached \$4 billion. (CDC Colorectal Cancer Vital Signs; July 2011)

I am pleased that Congress took steps to improve access to life-saving colon cancer screening when it passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) in March 2010.

While Congress has made tremendous strides in increasing colorectal cancer utilization rates in PPACA, this bill will further make live saving screenings more accessible to Medicare beneficiaries.

Currently, Medicare waives cost-sharing for any colorectal cancer screening recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. However, should the beneficiary have a precancerous polyp removed, the procedure is no longer considered a "screening" for Medicare coding purposes.

The unintended consequence of this is that the beneficiary is obligated to pay the Medicare coinsurance because the procedure is no longer a "screening." However, the purpose of the screening is to find and remove precancerous polyps.

The SCREEN Act waives all Medicare beneficiary cost-sharing for colorectal cancer screenings that become "therapeutic" or diagnostic procedures.

The legislation also resolves this unintended consequence for beneficiaries participating in health insurance exchanges beginning in 2014.

The SCREEN Act also provides incentives for Medicare providers to participate in nationally recognized quality improvement registries so that our Medicare beneficiaries are in fact receiving the quality screening they deserve.

Lastly, the SCREEN Act removes barriers to screening rates by allowing a Medicare beneficiary to sit down and discuss the importance of the procedure before seeing the provider for the first time right before procedure. The federal government and colorectal cancer patient advocacy groups have concluded that the "fear of the procedure" is a major impediment to increasing colorectal cancer screening rates.

Promoting access to colorectal cancer screening is good policy. It will save lives and reduce costs to families and the health care system. Please join with me in the fight against colorectal cancer by cosponsoring this legislation.

#### HONORING THE SOMERSET HILLS YMCA

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Somerset Hills YMCA located in Bernards Township, Somerset County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

From its modest beginning, first operating at the Dobb's Realty Building in Bernardsville and later at the Mill Street Firehouse, the Somerset Hills YMCA has been of great importance to its surrounding community. Within the first ten years of operation, the Somerset Hills YMCA already had 500 members and acquired a seventeen acre site to accommodate its growing membership.

In the 1980s, the facility on Mt. Airy Road in the Basking Ridge section of Bernards Township was expanded to provide its members with a state of the art facility. It offers three pools, a large gym, a dance studio, a café and much more. The YMCA provides more than 200 programs annually, including wellness, fitness, programs for those with special needs, day care, active older adults programs, sports, dance, adventure-based activities for teens and corporations, specialized family activities and a variety of community service programs including Career Forum, Special Olympics and Saturdays in Motion. In 2010, it partnered with the National Inclusion Project to insure that even people with disabilities could engage in these many programs. The YMCA is truly a place where all members of the community, regardless of age or ability, can participate, work out and enjoy themselves.

Since its opening, the Somerset Hills YMCA has had what they call, "a deep commitment to youth development, social responsibility, and health and well-being for all." Not only does this YMCA offer its programs to 22,000 people in the surrounding community, it also offers financial assistance to those who cannot afford membership.

The Somerset Hills YMCA is dedicated to its motto, "Strengthening the Foundations of the Community," and is committed to serving its neighbors. Most recently, in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Irene, the Somerset Hills YMCA graciously opened its doors to those who lacked electricity and running water in the area, regardless if they were members or not. Its unwavering dedication to go above and beyond their mission is what makes this organization great. I am honored to have the Somerset Hills YMCA in my district as it is truly a place of public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Somerset Hills YMCA as they celebrate 60 years of community service.